



Joe Sanfelippo



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July 2011

Committee Assignments:

Personnel (Chair) • Intergovernmental Relations • Parks, Energy and Environment

Dear Friends and Constituents,

On April 19, 1775 in Lexington and Concord, Massachusetts the first shots of the American Revolutionary War were fired. With the publishing of the book *Common Sense*, by Thomas Paine in January 1776, what was originally viewed as a civil war between the Colonists and their British rulers transformed into a fight for independence from the British throne.

As support for independence spread throughout the 13 colonies, the Continental Congress authorized States to form their own governments and embarked on drafting a Declaration of Independence. Finally, on July 4, 1776, after days of debating, sometimes fiercely, over the exact wording, 56 Delegates to the Continental Congress formally adopted the Declaration of Independence. In so doing, they instantly became treasonous traitors in the eyes of the British Government and would be relentlessly hunted down for the next five years. America was born.

However and with whomever you celebrate Independence Day this July 4th, please take time to reflect on the nearly unimaginable courage put forth by those brave 56 Delegates. Most of these individuals were men of great wealth and power that had put their fortunes, their lives and the safety of their families in danger, not solely for personal gain, but for the good of their fellow countrymen and a cause they believed deeply in:

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness...

Happy Independence Day.



Changes to Collective Bargaining Privileges

On June 29, after months of political maneuvering and delay, the changes to collective bargaining privileges for public sector employees that were contained in the state Budget Repair Bill finally became law. These changes will have an immediate and positive affect on Milwaukee County's ability to correct our structural deficit, protect jobs and continue to provide services to our citizens.

As you know, for over a year I have been writing about the seriousness of our structural deficit and the fact that the single biggest driver of this deficit is the high and unsustainable cost of employee and retiree wages and benefits. In just the last ten years, funding our pension system alone has increased from using roughly \$1 million of property tax money annually to \$60 million annually. On top of that, after you factor in the \$130 million budgeted this year for health insurance costs, it is clear to see why the county struggles to maintain parks and services at an adequate level.

Recently, I was asked by a reporter if I thought county employees would be worse off under these changes. My answer was an emphatic no. Civil Service rules already in place have been protecting non-represented worker's rights for years and will continue to do so into the future for all employees. County employees who are satisfied with the representation they are receiving are able to remain in a union

while those who are not have the freedom to choose to withdraw from membership, something they have not had since the County workforce was given permission to unionize nearly 50 years ago.

Over the past several years, the County has resorted to outsourcing services and privatizing jobs for financial reasons. By making these positions more affordable, the financial benefits privatization offered in the past will shrink, increasing job protection for County workers.

As we move forward during this transitional period, the challenge for County Board Supervisors will be to reassure our employees that their dedication will continue to be respected, their hard work appreciated and their exemplary efforts rewarded in ways previously unable due to collective bargaining contract rules. To meet this challenge, the Personnel Committee will strive to promote a continued safe work environment and pleasant atmosphere for employees that will increase efficiency for County taxpayers. Everyone will benefit.

US Bank Fireworks

Sunday, July 3rd, 2011

Milwaukee's beautiful lakefront!

Fireworks begin at dusk, bring your friends and family and enjoy the finest show in the sky!

Reforming Milwaukee County's Mental Healthcare System

After dozens of meetings over the past year, the Citizen Advisory Board assembled to make recommendations on ways to improve the delivery of mental healthcare in Milwaukee County will soon issue its final report.

This report, along with a report that will be issued later this month by the New Behavioral Health Facility Study Committee, are just two of several reports compiled over the past year as part of the County's efforts to modernize and improve our mental healthcare system. These changes are desperately needed.

An implementation committee led by the Department of Health and Human Services Behavioral Health Division will now assemble all of the recommendations contained in these reports and devise a specific action plan to move forward with enacting these changes.

While this process has taken much longer than I would have liked, it will soon be up to the County Board to put the action plan into motion. Thorough reviews of our mental health care system, including detailed recommendations for improvements, have been forwarded to the Board twice over the last two decades with little action having been taken. The problems that were exposed in news reports last summer highlighted the fact that we can no longer

afford to put these critically needed reforms off.

It is my sincere hope that the Board will put the needs of those that rely on these vital services before all else and will work together to enact these recommendations as quickly as possible.



Local Fourth of July Celebrations!

City of Greenfield

Monday, July 4th, 2011

Parade starts at 12:00pm

Location: 68th & W. Layton Ave.
to Konkel Park

City of West Allis

Saturday, July 2nd, 2011

Parade starts at 11:00am

Location: 77th & W. Greenfield Ave. to 71st &
W. National Ave.

Village of Greendale

Monday, July 4, 2011

Declaration of Independence reading at
9:00am at the flagpole in front of Village
Hall.

Parade starts at 10:00am

Location: 68th & Grange to Greendale High
School